

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 MC-02 ACDA-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 /065 R

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R 052100Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, TU

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SPARE PARTS TO TURKEY

REF: A) TEHRAN 3906 B) STATE 94633

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CONSIDERATIONS RAISED REF A REGARDING TURKISH SPARE PARTS PROBLEM AND SHAH'S INTEREST IN ASSISTING GOT IN OVERCOMING THAT PROBLEM. USG IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER, BUT OUR EFFORTS TO HELP TURKS ARE SEVERELY CONSTRAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION SUSPENDING ALL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FMS, AND ISSUANCE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSES FOR EXPORT OF ARMS AND IMPLEMENTS OF WAR TO GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. UNTIL THAT PROHIBITION IS LIFTED OR OTHERWISE AMELIORATED, WE CANNOT APPROVE THE TRANSFER TO TURKEY OF ANY MILITARY ITEM OF US ORIGIN FOR WHICH ADVANCE APPROVAL OF USG IS NEEDED. WE SIMPLY HAVE NO DISCRETION IN PROPOSED TRANSFERS TO TURKEY
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OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF MAP OR FMS ORIGIN IN VIEW OF

EXISTING STATUTES GOVERNING SUCH TRANSFERS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THIS POINT TO GOI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LEST THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE BE MISCONSTRUED BY IRANIANS AND POSSIBLY LEAD THEM TO ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR MANEUVER HER THE SHAH'S REFERENCE TO SUCH TRANSFERS REPRESENTING A "DELICATE MATTER" SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT OUR HANDS ARE LEGALLY BOUND. TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT IRANIAN AIR FORCE AND OTHER CONCERNED ELEMENTS OF IRANIAN ARMED FORCES ARE FULLY AWARE OF USG POSITION ON TRANSFERS TO TURKEY OF MAP AND FMS ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. REF B PROVIDES NECESSARY BACKGROUND. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE104579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWSMITH:RG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0831
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750580/aaaacvjg.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 3906, 75 STATE 94633
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF SPARE PARTS TO TURKEY
TAGS: MASS, IR, TU, US
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006